

FRANCE'S COLOSSAL GIFT.

BARTHOLDI'S STATUE TO BE READY LONG BEFORE ITS PEDESTAL.

A Strange Apathy Among New Yorkers in Helping the Stately Torch Bearer to a Standing Place.—A Voice from Arizona.

Owing to a strange apathy, only \$31,000 has been subscribed of the \$250,000 required to complete the base and pedestal for Bartholdi's colossal statue of "Liberty Enlightening the World," proposed to the city of New York by the people of France, to be erected on Bedloe's Island. The idea of presenting the statue originated with August Bartholdi, the eminent French sculptor, cousin of M. Bartholdi, the French Minister to the United States.

A society was formed in France in the summer of 1855, which proposed to take part in the commemoration of the one hundredth anniversary of American independence. The society was called the "Union Fraternelle de France," and its object was to be carried out by the erection of the Bartholdi statue. The project was announced at a banquet, when eloquent speeches were made by distinguished citizens of France, recalling the ancient alliance between the two nations. M. Edouard Laboulaye was chosen president of the society, and among its members were M. Minister Washburn, Minister Bartholdi, Commissioner John W. Forney, Oscar de Lafayette, Marquis de Noailles, Marquis de Roquemont, Count de Tocqueville, Cornelius De Witt, Henri Martin, Paul du Remond, Dietz Monin, and others of both sides of the ocean.

More than 250,000 of the French people subscribed liberally, and have long since furnished the \$250,000 required for the expense of casting the statue, the artistic services of August Bartholdi having been given free.

French Commissioners to the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia in 1876. He had at that time modeled and cast the hand and arm of the statue, and had sent it to America.

It was first exhibited at Philadelphia, and afterward, for a long time, in Madison square, but it never had the great statue will be the projectors said, in their prospectus. "Our design is in remembrance of a glorious past, and in the hope of a glorious future. We propose to erect in the middle of the fine harbor of New York, on an island belonging to the State of New York, a statue of the Liberty Enlightening the World."

The pedestal, which is to stand on the continent of a new life, where vessels from all parts of the world are passing, it will raise the standard of freedom and liberty enlightening the world."

August Bartholdi's design has not with the approval of the most competent artists. It is not well adapted to the site, and the foundations have been published and especially the celebrated painting by Edward Moran in which he represents the statue in the windows of the French Consulate, at the foot of the statue.

The design is a star-shaped base of Liberty holding a torch in her uplifted hand. This torch is to burn forever, and the French motto serves as a beacon for the harbor. In the left hand of the statue is a tablet on which is inscribed the date of American independence, the 4th of July, 1776.

The pedestal and base will be another 150 feet, making a total height of 300 feet.

We enclose a letter to Mr. Michael Butler, who is now the secretary of the Executive Committee charged with erecting the pedestal. A meeting was called at the Century Club, on Wednesday evening, and the necessary funds, \$5,000, were Chairman, and J. N. Phillips Treasurer. Among the members were many leading men, and some of the most prominent citizens. Among the subscriptions have been \$500 by Drayton, Morgan & Co., \$1,000 by James J. Astor, George S. Catharine, and \$1,000 by Wm. M. Evans, J. L. Johnston, Charles Bradford, J. W. Lovell, W. C. Godwin, Eugene Kelly, W. L. Strong, C. N. Bass, W. Shimpson, C. Vanderbilt, E. Bullock, and C. B. Brewster, & Co. & Co., J. Solomons, Moses Taylor & Co., and others. The popular amateur theatrical entertainment, in Union Square, the theater, has \$40,000, and the money which has been brought it up to about \$100,000 with which the committee feel authorized to begin the work.

The bill introduced in Congress to provide for the payment of Congress passed in February, 1877, provided by the committee consisting of Mr. Evans, ex-Gov. Morgan, Parke Godwin, and Mr. Bradford, that the United States was authorized to accept the statue when presented by the citizens of the French Republic, and to designate and appropriate a suitable site for its reception.

Be it known to all, that upon the completion of the statue, it will be transferred to the custody of the Executive Committee, and the sum of \$100,000 will be paid to the committee for the expenses of its removal to New York, and the amount will be used for the maintenance of the statue, and for the future maintenance of the statue as a beacon, and for its permanent care and preservation, and for the art of art, of which it is composed, and for the expenses which aided us in our struggle for freedom.

Under the direction of Gen. Sherman, a site for the statue was chosen on Bedloe's Island, and where the work of erection is to be done, is now going on.

Meanwhile the statue has been brought to New York, and is now being prepared for the arrival of the artist, Arthur Gaget Gaumer, and there were commemo- rative speeches of the recent and distinguished life of General Arthur Gaget Gaumer, at the foundry of Gaget Gaumer, at the foundry of the statue.

The statue will be completed and ready for delivery long before the base and pedestal are ready for the pedestal.

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